

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today the House of Representatives voted to pass the so-called Balanced Budget Amendment (H.J. Res. 2). Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus voted against the bill and released the following statement:

“Right now, nothing is more important than putting America back on track. Putting our federal budget back in balance is an essential part of that. But balancing the budget on the backs of those who had no part in creating this fiscal mess is the wrong way to do it. H.J. Res. 2, the so-called Balanced Budget Amendment, would handcuff our public services during national emergencies. And it would place indispensable services that the American people have paid for like Medicare and Social Security on the chopping block to pay for the cost of items like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the unpaid-for Bush tax breaks. We must balance our budget responsibly without threatening the security of the American people.”